Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 11218 171504Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 BIB-01 FCC-02 OTPE-00 /139 W
----------058438 180228Z /64
R 171454Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8189
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS LONDON 11218

USOECD
USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UK
SUBJECT: UK TV BROADCASTING RESTRICTIONS

REF: LONDON 10971

1. EMBASSY E/C MINISTER HAS RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM BUTLER FCO TO APPROACH RE PROSPECTIVE TV SCREEN QUOTA REDUCTION. TEXT OF BUTLER'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

"YOU CAME TO SEE ME ON 29 JUNE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE APPARENT INTENTION OF THE INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (IBA) TO MAKE A REDUCTION IN THE PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGN MATERIAL SHOWN ON INDEPENDENT TELEVISION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD BE AT VARIANCE WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE OECD CODE OF LIBERALISATION OF CURRENT INVISIBLE TRANSACTIONS. I UNDERTOOK TO TAKE LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CODE WITH PARTICULAR

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PAGE 02 LONDON 11218 171504Z

REFERENCE TO THE IBA.

"OUR LEGAL PEOPLE HAVE NOW LOOKED INTO THIS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. THEIR CONCLUSION IS THAT, AS I SUGGESTED WHEN WE SPOKE, THE IBA IS NOT, SAVE IN A FEW MOST CIRCUMSCRIBED CASES, SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT DIRECTION. IT IS AN INDEPENDENT BODY THAT CARRIES OUT ITS TASK OF SELECTING AND APPROVING PROGRAMMES ON THE BASIS OF

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CRITERIA, SOME OF WHICH ARE SPECIFIED IN THE INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING ACT OF 1973, INDEPENDENTLY OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTION. IN SELECTING AND APPROVING THE PROGRAMMES BROADCAST, THE IBA IS NOT GRANTING ANY AUTHORISATION REQUIRED FOR THE IMPORT OF PRINTED FILM FOR TELEVISION BROADCASTS, NOR DOES IT ACT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT FOLLOWS THAT THE IBA IS NOT A BODY THAT AUTHORISES ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO THE OECD CODE.

"I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THAT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE IBA WHICH MIGHT INDICATE A POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TV FILMS CURRENTLY PURCHASED FROM THE USA MIGHT BE UNHELPFUL AT THIS TIME. IN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS ISSUE WE SHALL HAVE THIS IN MIND. (I AM TOLD, INCIDENTALLY, THAT IF ANY CHANGES ARE TO BE DECIDED UPON THEY WILL NOT BE DRASTIC OR SUDDEN.) BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE IBA IS A GENERALLY INDEPENDENT BODY OVER WHICH, SO FAR AS THIS ASPECT IS CONCERNED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO AUTHORITY."

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BUTLER JULY 14 AND WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE PERMANENT SECRETARY PLIATZKY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY KNIGHTON JULY 13 IT SEEMED EVIDENT THAT BOTH DEPARTMENTS HAVE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH THE INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN AS TO WHAT ACTION IBA MAY TAKE OR WHEN.
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BREWSTER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON11218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780293-1327
Format: TEL
From: LONDON USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780753/aaaabsil.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fee7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 10971
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1987988
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK TV BROADCASTING RESTRICTIONS
TAGS: ETRD, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fee7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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